

**Clearance to Power Projects from Gujarat State  
Power Corporation**

1718. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA:  
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have authorised the Central Electricity Authority to give clearance to Gujarat State Power Corporation for power projects before putting them on the competitive bids;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the clearance is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir. The present procedure does not envisage such clearance.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

**STD Facility in Rural Areas**

1719. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :  
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demands for providing STD facilities in rural areas are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the numbers thereof, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to settle those pending demands;

(d) whether most of the telephones in hilly areas of the country remain out of order frequently; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) There are a number of demands for provision of STD to exchanges in Rural Areas. Out of 23509 exchanges in the country, STD has been provided to 17753 exchanges. The State-wise details of number of Exchanges in rural areas which are yet to be provided with STD facility are available in the enclosed statement.

(c) The remaining Exchanges are planned to be provided with STD facility during 9th Five Year Plan, subject to availability of resources.

(d) and (e) Generally the performance of telephones in hilly areas is satisfactory. However, for further improving the services following steps are being taken :

- Replacement of life expired exchanges by modern digital exchanges.
- Replacement of old and worn out equipment by modern new technology equipments.
- Training to Staff.
- Use of modern tools and testing equipments.
- Use of reliable transmission media.

**Statement**

*No. of Telephone Exchanges pending, State-wise for  
provision of STD facility in Rural Areas*

Sl. No.	State	No. of Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	493
2.	Assam	Nil
3.	Bihar	24
4.	Gujarat	252
5.	Haryana	406
6.	Himachal Pradesh	48
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	101
8.	Karnataka	264
9.	Kerala	Nil
10.	Madhya Pradesh	783
11.	Maharashtra	1190
12.	Goa	7
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	29

1	2	3
14.	Meghalaya	12
15.	Mizoram	16
16.	Tripura	5
17.	Manipur	10
18.	Nagaland	14
19.	Orissa	25
20.	Punjab	151
21.	Rajasthan	647
22.	Tamilnadu	147
23.	Uttar Pradesh	782
24.	West Bengal	140
25.	Sikkim	Nil
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	3
27.	Delhi	Nil
Total		5549

#### **Land Acquisition for Kollam Bye Pass**

1720. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land acquisition process of the third and fourth phases of Kollam Bye-pass has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Acquisition of land for Phase-III is complete. In case of Phase-IV, land acquisition is complete in respect of 3 out of 15 blocks; it is in progress in respect of 12 blocks and earmarked to be completed within the current year.

[*Translation*]

#### **Anti India Propaganda on T.V. and Radio**

1721. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH :  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :  
SHRI VISHNU DATT VAIDYA :  
SHRI AJIT JOGI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan has again started anti-India propaganda on T.V. and Radio in respect of Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and counter measures, if any, taken to thwart such propaganda?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pakistan has been carrying on vicious anti-India propaganda regarding the Kashmir issue on its electronic media and there was no let up in this propaganda at any stage during the last few years. Pakistan's electronic media are trying to create hatred among the Kashmiri muslims against India by broadcasting/telecasting distorted or totally baseless reports and by levelling baseless charges/allegations against India and its security forces.

The terrestrial network of All India Radio and Doordarshan have been strengthened to improve their coverage in the border area by commissioning new stations, upgrading the power of some of the existing transmitters and broadcasting/telecasting programmes including news bulletins that present the facts in their proper perspective. In addition, programmes are also mounted regularly on Doordarshan's International channel presenting a correct picture on Kashmir. Presently 4 High Power Transmitters (HPTs), 7 Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) and 27 Very Low Power Transmitters (VLPTs) are functioning in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Further one HPT, 3 LPTs and 10 VLPTs are under installation stage.

[*English*]

#### **Yamuna Action Plan**

1722. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has prepared Rs. 480 crore comprehensive Yamuna Action